allocation of Rs 2500 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for 2002-03.

- Infrastructure equity fund of Rs 1000 crore will be set up to help in providing equity investment for infrastructure projects. Total Plan outlay on infrastructure in power, roads and railway is Rs 37919 crores.
- Union Budget 2002-03 proposes abolition of 16% special excise duty on all, except eight items, additional 15% depreciation on new plant and machinery, reduction of peak of custom duty to 30% rationalisation of custom duty rates to two duty rates by 2004-05, and have announced special incentives for textile industry.
- Measures to boost Housing sector such as repeal by the States of the rules under the Urban Land Ceiling Act, rationalisation of high stamp duty regimes proposed in the Union Budget 2002-03.

Streamlining of Exports

†508. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of goods from India has been decreasing constantly due to the absence of a far sighted policy of Government.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the wheat and rice exported from India are being rejected by foreign countries due to bad quality;

(c) if so, the details in this regards; and

(d) the policy being adopted by Government to streamline the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. India's exports during 2000-01 are valued at US $ 44.56 billion as compared to the level of US $ 36.82 billion during April-March, 1999-2000 thereby, registering a growth of 21% which was higher than the target of 18% set for the year 2000-01. This is the highest export growth rate achieved in the last decade. As per the latest available data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta, India's exports of merchandise goods during April-January, 2001-2002 are valued at US $ 36.526 billion which is 1.56% higher

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

than the level of US $ 35.963 billion during April-January, 2000-01. Exports, during the month of January 2002, recorded a rise of 18.18% in dollar terms as compared to the exports of January, 2001.

(b) to (d) In the last couple of years there have not been any instances of rejections on quality ground except that last year there was a rejection of a consignment of Basmati rice in Saudi Arabia and a consignment of wheat in Iraq. In both the cases, the issued have been resolved. However, quality control in exports being an important area, measures are taken from time to time to strengthen and streamline the system in this regard.

New Region for Cultivation of Coffee

509. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out at Rs.1000 crore plan to boost both export and domestic consumption of coffee during the next five years; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have identified new region for cultivation of coffee in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No. Sir. However, the Coffee Board is implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next five years. The Board has recently organised an International Coffee Festival in Bangalore which provided wide exposure for Indian coffee in the international arena. Similarly, for increasing domestic consumption of coffee, the Coffee Board is already taking various steps. In this direction, Govt. of India/Coffee Board has also taken initiative to encourage procurement and marketing of coffee by the Indian Coffee Marketing Cooperative Ltd. (COMARK) in collaboration with co-operative societies viz. National Diary Development Board and Gujarat Cooperative of Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) etc.

(b) The Coffee Board have not identified any new regions for taking up coffee cultivation in the country in the recent times. Currently, coffee is being cultivated in all the four southern states (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh) as well as in 7 North Eastern States and Orissa in suitable locations.